

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

FOR GOD IS MY DEFENSE

PSALMS 59

Text: Psalms 59:17

Psalm 59:17

¹⁷ Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: **for God is my defence**, and the God of my mercy.

Introduction:

In this psalm David speaks of and compares his enemies to wild dogs.

This is not the only time David describes his enemies in less than flattering terms.

In psalms 57-61 you will notice that David described his enemies as lions, ravenous beasts who were looking to devour him.

In Psalms 58 David further pictures his enemies as dangerous cobras, filled with deadly venom, who cannot be charmed no matter how skillful the charmer is.

Note a few things before we get it to this message.

1. We have this Psalm because of a great trial that David faced and made it through.

1 Samuel 19:11

¹¹ Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

Jealous King Saul trying to kill David yet again this time sending men to kill him as he lies in his bed.

2. This Psalm is a prayer for deliverance, but not a gloomy one. This Psalm is full of confidence and faith.

1. DAVID'S DILEMMA

- His Enemies Were Defiant (vs. 1)

Psalm 59:1

*¹ Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: **defend me from them that rise up against me.***

- His Enemies Were Deadly (vs. 2)

Psalm 59:2

*² Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and **save me from bloody men.***

Not only were his enemy Defiant and Deadly but also:

- His Enemy Were Deceptive (vs. 3)

Psalm 59:3

³ For, lo, **they lie in wait for my soul**: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

This verse refers to 1 Samuel 24:11.

1 Samuel 24:11

¹¹ Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

This was when David had the opportunity to kill Saul but refused to do so because Saul was the anointed king.

Instead of killing Saul David cut off a piece of his robe.

The enemies or dogs as David referred to them, accused David of sin, but David justified himself in this psalm declaring that he was innocent of their accusations.

Not only were his enemies Defiant, Deadly, and Deceptive but also:

- His Enemy Were Determined (vs. 4)

Psalm 59:4

*⁴ They run and prepare themselves **without my fault:** awake to help me, and behold.*

His enemies were in hot pursuit and they were pursuing him without a cause.

2. DAVID'S DESCRIPTION (VS. 5-7)

Psalm 59:5-7

⁵ Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. ⁶ They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. ⁷ Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

- Consider Their Nature (vs. 5-6)

Psalm 59:5-6

⁵ Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. ⁶ They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

David is quick to call these men exactly what they are:

- Heathens
- Transgressors
- Dogs

Note:

They return at evening – like a pack of dogs – making their rounds – looking for their next meal.

Consider not only their Nature but also:

- Consider Their Noise (vs. 7)

Psalm 59:7

⁷ Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

These dogs are howling and creating foul sounds in the ears of David.

Their lies and deceit have filled the neighborhood as they awake by their sounds.

We note David's Dilemma and Description but also:

3. DAVID'S DESIRE

- Defend Me (vs. 1)

Psalm 59:1

¹ Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me.

- Deliver Me (vs. 2)

Psalm 59:2

² Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men.

We certainly can see and understand these desires but in verse 11 we see a very unique desire,

Note:

Psalm 59:11

¹¹ Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield.

David desired for God to:

- Distend Judgment

One may wonder why this was David's desire.

David understood that if the enemies were dealt with in one day, there was the potential to forget such a great deliverance thus David desired that God's judgment would be spread out over time so that the people of God would give God the praise and glory He is due for taking care of the injustice and wickedness.

Close:

As we close I want to see 6 reasons why David was confident enough that is says:

Psalm 59:16-17

¹⁶ But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. ¹⁷ Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

1. He knew the God was personally aware of his situation. Remember God misses nothing, and sees all.
2. He knew that God was hearing and marking down the murderous threats of those who were against him.

What is whispered in the ear is as clear to God as what is shouted from the roof tops.

3. His hands were clean. He was innocent. He had done nothing that warranted Saul trying to take his life. (vs. 9)

Sometimes when trouble comes our way it is a rightful consequence of our own doing but there are times our situation may be more like David's- we have committed no great sins, there is nothing that warrants the attacks we are facing from others.

4. He knew that he was loved by God

5. To him, God was like a fortress

To David, God was like a fortress, but like no fortress on earth- for with God there is perfect security.

Trouble came and where did David go? He ran to God. He took shelter in the Shadow of the Almighty. He drew near to God and sought refuge under his wings. Because of this, in spite of the dangers that lurked out his very window, David felt and was secure in God and his spirits were lifted.

6. He knew that the end of his enemies was coming

David knew what we know; "bad dogs get put down".

David knew, looked forward to, and prayed for the day on which God would deal with his enemies. David knew

that justice would be done and that God would not let the wicked go unpunished. Such is our confidence. Such is the promise of the Scriptures.

At various points in our lives there will be people who are actively out to get us.

This ought not to surprise us. Persecution, particularly for our faith in the Lord, is something the Bible tells us to expect.

The first thing to do, in response to those who make themselves our enemies is this:

Call Out to God

Run To Him As One Would Run In the Old Days to a Fortress for Safety

Resist the Urge to Retaliate

Don't Give In to Fear

Don't Compromise Your Faith and Christian Morals

The next thing to do, in response to those who make themselves our enemies is this: stay confident, stay committed to the praise and worship of God, for He is in the midst of working on your behalf.

Justice will be done.

The hymn writer Civilla Martin penned the words to a very familiar hymn when she herself needed to learn the lesson of resting in God's care.

Her husband, Stillman Martin, was a well-known Baptist evangelist.

One Sunday in 1904, Civilla became ill suddenly and was unable to accompany her husband to his preaching assignment some distance away.

Stillman considered cancelling his trip.

There young song spoke these profound words which were instrumental in the writing of this song.

Those words were: "Daddy, don't you think that if God wants you to preach today, He will take care of Mommy while you're away?"

Stillman returned that evening after seeing several people trusting Christ as their Saviour to find his wife greatly improved, busily writing the words of this hymn – "God Will Take Care of You."

Note these words:

(Verse 1)

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you!
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you!

(Verse 2)

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you!
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you!

(Verse 3)

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you!
Trust Him, and you will be satisfied,
God will take care of you!

(Verse 4)

Lonely and sad, from friends apart,
God will take care of you!
He will give peace to your aching heart,
God will take care of you!

(Verse 5)

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you!
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you!

(Chorus)

God will take care of you,
Through every day o'er all the way;
He will take care of you;
God will take care of you!